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Mental Photographs

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MENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS

AN

ALBUM

FOR

CONFESSIONS

OF

Tastes, Habits, and Convictions

EDITED BY

ROBERT SAXTON

LIBRARY SECRETARY'S
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NEW YORK
LEYPOLDT & HOLT
1869

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Preface.

This Book is intended to serve as a record for the tastes and characteristics of friends; in short, for their mental photographs, just as another class of Albums serves to keep their physical ones.

The set of questions on which the system is founded, has long been the favorite diversion of a small circle of friends, to whom this brief preface will recall many a pleasant hour. Very naturally, a mental photograph book was ultimately formed, in which both questions and answers were written, and every one giving a mental photograph was required to give also a carte de visite for the ordinary photograph book, so that as complete a portrait as possible, both of the inner and outer man, was obtained. In the present volume, better facilities for combining the two elements are furnished, and many new questions have, of course, been added to those previously in use. It is needless to say, that the questions can be multiplied ad infinitum, and that the answers can be made in jest or earnest, as best suits the mind and manner of the sitter. Examples of both modes of reply are given on a subsequent page, taken from the editor's book of "mental photographs."

Another very amusing way of using the questions, is to write down the photograph of an absent friend, or rather, what we suppose it to be, and then obtain the real answers, and compare them with those previously given. I remember two instances of this kind, in which, out of thirty answers, only one was wrong

Of course, even a slight examination of these questions will make it evident that they are intended rather to form a key to the tastes than to the characters of those who use them conscientiously; but nevertheless, however used, they are apt to give some idea of character. When (to quote instances already notorious) Napoleon III. replied to the question, "Who would you like to be?" that he would gladly be his own grandson if it were possible, we know that the answer is a humbug, and that he knows it to be so, but is it not thoroughly characteristic of the man? And when the Prince of Wales asserts with charming impudence, that his "favorite occupation" is improving his mind, we know that the reply is a piece of impertinent mockery, but is it not characteristic of the manner in which that serious and admirable young man throws impertinence and defiance in the teeth of the respectable and fastidious John Bull?

We are not claiming too much for these questions in a psychological point of view, when we assert, that if seriously and thoughtfully treated, they will lead to very interesting psychological researches; nor, on the other hand, that if treated as a mere jest and pastime, they will prove an endless source of amusement.

For the sake of variety and completeness, more questions have been given in this Album than it will ordinarily be found practicable to take time to answer. Each person should make a selection according to taste. To attempt to answer all may be sometimes found more tedious than entertaining.

R. S.

Illustrations of the manner of using this Album,

TAKEN FROM THE ALBUM OF THE EDITOR.

In the Editor's Album, the two sets of answers, were, of course, on different pages.

	Mr. M. W. S., Feb. 29th, 1868.	Miss W. S. K., Jan. 8th, 1869.
1. *What trait do you most admire?*	*Repose.*	*Disinterestedness.*
2. *What most detest?*	*Insensibility to attraction.*	*Cruelty.*
3. *Who is your favorite character in history?*	*Mahomet.*	*St. John.*
4. *In romance?*	*Jennie Deans.*	*Harley L'Estrange.*
5. *Who is your favorite composer?*	*Coffee.*	*Mendelssohn and Mozart.*
6. " " " *artist?*	*Providence.*	*Murillo.*
7. " " " *poet?*	*Walter Scott.*	*Pope and Tennyson.*
8. " " " *poetess?*	*Mrs. Hemans.*	*Mrs. Browning.*
9. *What is your favorite book to take up for an hour?*	*Faust.*	*Shakspeare's Plays.*
10. *What is your favorite flower?*	*Lily of the Valley.*	*Lily of the Valley.*
11. " " " *color?*	*Color of Truth.*	*Lilac.*
12. *What is your favorite woman's name?*	*Faith.*	*Margaret.*
13. *What is your favorite man's name?*	*Spurgeon. !*	*Henry.*
14. *What is your favorite perfume?*	*Smell of a* new *Tract.*	*Cologne.*
15. " " " *fruit?*	*Locusts.*	*Strawberries.*
16. " " " *tree?*	*The Gallows.*	*Weeping Elm.*
17. " " " *hour in the day?*	*The first cracks of dawn.*	*Twilight.*
18. *What is your favorite object in nature?*	*Camp-meeting.*	*Trees.*
19. *What is your favorite occupation?*	*Waiting on Providence.*	*Illuminating.*
20. *What is your favorite amusement?*	*Sitting for my mental photograph.*	*Listening to clever people.*
21. *What do you believe to be your distinguishing characteristic?*	*Humility.*	*Love of approbation.*
22. *What is your* bête noir?	*A Radical.*	*Bores, and dresses without pockets.*
23. " " *dream?*	*A cot beside a wood.*	*The realization of impossibilities.*
24. " " *aim in life?*	*To live to see the decline and fall of the British Empire.*	*To turn the prose of Life into poetry.*
25. " " *motto?*	*" Let her rip."*	*" To be, is better than to seem."*
26. *What are the saddest words in the world?*	*Thank you, I can't take any more.*	*Too late!*
27. *What are the sweetest words in the world?*	*Gentlemen, dinner!*	
	W. C.	W. K. S.

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22. Where would you like to live?

23. What is your favorite amusement?

24. What is your favorite occupation?

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